

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4672
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S E C R E T OSLO 4923

LIMDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST FROM VINE

PASS ALSO NSC FOR HUNTER, DOD/ISA FOR MCGIFFERT

E.O. 11652: XGDS 3

TAGS:

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON NORTHERN PROBLEMS

1. WE FINISHED TWO DAYS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE
NORWEGIANS ON PROBLEMS IN THE NORTHERN AREAS.

2. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE NORWEGIANS CONSIDER THE ISSUES
INVOLVED TO BE CONSIDERABLY MORE SENSITIVE POLITICALLY
THAN IN THE PAST. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND MET WITH
US FOR AN HOUR TO START OFF OUR TALKS AND INSISTED THAT
WE MEET WITH HIM TODAY FOR OVER AN HOUR TO SUM UP WHERE
WE WERE.

3. THE MAIN DELICATE ISSUE IS OF COURSE THE "GREY
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ZONE" FOR AN INTERIM FISHERIES MANAGEMENT REGIME
BETWEEN THE USSR AND NORWAY WHICH GRANTS THE USSR
JOINT MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT PRIVILEGES WELL TO
THE WEST OF THE SECTOR LINE IN THE BARENTS SEA. THE
AGREEMENT IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF CONTROVERSY IN THE
GOVERNMENT AND IS CLEARLY NOT POPULAR IN THE FOREIGN
AND DEFENSE MINISTRIES. DESPITE THIS, THE GOVERNMENT

HAS CLEARLY DECIDED TO SUBMIT IT TO THE STARTING FOR RATIFICATION.

4. FRYDENLUND WAS EXPLICITLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE ROLE WE HAVE PLAYED IN OBTAINING ALLIED UNDERSTANDING AND CONSENSUS ON SVALBARD TREATY ISSUES. HE INDICATED THAT THERE IS NOW BRITISH, FRENCH, AND FRG SUPPORT FOR THE FISHERIES PROTECTION ZONE AND THAT THE ATMOSPHERE OF SUSPICION AND MISTRUST THE NORWEGIANS HAD PREVIOUSLY ENCOUNTERED WAS DISPELLED. HE EXPLICITLY WELCOMED U.S. EFFORTS EARLIER TO BUILD A COMMON ALLIED POSITION. HE IMPLICITLY INDICATED THAT NORWAY WOULD CONTINUE TO ADJUST ITS POLICIES WHERE POSSIBLE TO ADJUST TO ALLIED CONCERNS CONSISTENT WITH NORWEGIAN INTERESTS AND LEGITIMATE USSR DEMANDS. HE RECOGNIZES THAT A PRACTICAL APPROACH BUILT ON A NORWEGIAN ALLIED CONSENSUS IS THE VIABLE NEGOTIATING STRATEGY WITH THE USSR, RATHER THAN RIGID INSISTENCE UPON STATIC TREATY INTERPRETATIONS.

5. THESE TALKS SUGGEST THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE PROBABLY STEPPED UP THEIR HARDLINE TACTICS ACROSS THE BOARD WITH NORWAY. ON SVALBARD ITSELF, THEY NOW DIRECTLY ASSERT A SPECIAL INTERPRETIVE ROLE FOR THEMSELVES IN THE AREA'S ADMINISTRATION. ON THE FISHERIES PROTECTIVE ZONE AROUND AVALBARD, THEY RESIST FORMAL COMPLIANCE WITH NORWEGIAN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS (ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE ACCEPTED
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NORWEGIAN INSPECTION). THEY SHOW NO SIGNS OF MOVING ON MARITIME BOUNDARY DELIMITATION. FRYDENLUND WAS GRATEFUL TO NOTE HOWEVER THAT THE IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-USSR RELATIONS HAD QUICKLY AND DIRECTLY IMPROVED THE ATMOSPHERE OF NORWEGIAN SOVIET RELATIONS. ONE SENSES THE STRAIN THE NORWEGIANS ARE UNDER. AT THE SAME TIME, WE FIND THEM CONSIDERABLY MORE MATURE AND DETERMINED ABOUT THESE NEGOTIATIONS THAN WE DID A YEAR AGO.

6. WE HAVE SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE "GREY ZONE" CONCEPT AND ITS POSSIBLE RAMIFICATIONS FOR THE EXPANSION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE WEST OF THE SECTOR LINE IN THE BARENTS, BUT, ON THE WHOLE, THE NORWEGIANS SEEM TO BE HOLDING FIRM.

7. FOR INFO ADDRESSEES: THIS MESSAGE IS SENT FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY. VINE WILL BRIEF RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON.
LERNER

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NNN

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